of the sub-sea pipeline from Iran to India.

(b) The fiscal, technical and other implications will arise only after the pre-feasibility study is completed.

(c) Efforts for developing alternative source of crude oil are made continuously keeping in view their suitability and competitiveness.

Israel's offer to process crude

774. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel has offered its spare refinery capacity to process crude on India's account;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) An Israeli oil company by the name of Oil Refineries Limited has made an offer to Indian Oil Corporation for supply of diesel (HSD) on terms to be mutually agreed upon.

(c) There is no proposal at present to purchase crude or petroleum products from Israel during 1993-94.

Reduction in outlay for ONGC

775. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total outlay for ONGC has been slashed by half;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such reduction;

(c) whether production of crude is likely to be affected by such reduction; and

(d) if so, in what manner the domestic requirement of oil is going to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Against a proposed outlay of Rs. 33,393 crores by ONGC for the 8th Plan Period, Government has approved an outlay of Rs. 17,511 crores. The reduction in outlay was necessitated due to less availability of resources at the time of making sectorwise allocation for the 8th Five Year Plan. However, it was indicated that physical programme of work and production need not be reduced as necessary funds would be made available on a year to year basis.

The original target of 180.726 MMT of crude oil production has been revised to 149.40 MMT during the 8th Plan Period mainly because of the delay in development of selected fields under JVC, rectificatory measures adopted to restore the health of the reservoirs, delay in implementation of field development projects and environmental problems in Assam.

(d) The domestic requirement of the crude oil will be met through imports to the extent of short-fall in the indigenous production against the demand.

LPG bottling plants in Bihar

776. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants which have so far been established by various public sector oil companies in the State of Bihar and how many of them are operational with plant-wise details thereof;

(b) whether these bottling plants are sufficient to cater to the needs of the entire State;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up more LPG bottling plants